## CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

## **BROWNFIELDS ACTION AGENDA**

- Cal/EPA Brownfields Policy Statement Develop a policy statement to guide Cal/EPA boards' and departments' policies, decision-making and prioritization of brownfields sites.
- Emphasize Brownfields in policies, processes, and organizational focus
  - Assign staff in DTSC and Regional Boards with exclusive Brownfields focus (dual mission focus: redevelopment -and- cleanup)
    - Give brownfield sites focus and priority distinct from other program efforts
    - Prioritize efficiency, meeting deadlines, and cutting costs
    - Promote the program; reach out to stakeholder base (local government & development community)
    - Make the program user-friendly through guidance documents, fact sheets and materials tailored to stakeholders needs
  - Create opportunities for streamlining and efficiency
    - Identify flexibility in cleanup processes (e.g., flexibility within NCP)
    - Develop policies and guidance related to brownfields cleanups and train project managers in their use
    - Develop and use screening numbers (SB 32 mandate) where appropriate and train local government and development community in their use
    - Identify and use presumptive remedies and cleanup levels where appropriate
- Intra-agency Brownfields Roundtable Hold regular meetings with Cal/EPA, DTSC and the State and Regional Boards to:
  - o Coordinate efforts between agencies (policies and site specific items)
  - Discuss and respond to ideas and proposals forwarded by the Brownfields Working Group and other brownfields stakeholders
  - Develop regional Brownfields "Red Teams" to address both health and water quality issues at brownfield sites where warranted
  - Develop ways to eliminate duplication and unintended consequences (emphasize oversight by one regulatory agency per site – ensure that investigation and cleanup activities address concerns of both)
  - Coordinate with other state and federal agencies that are involved in brownfields activities
  - o Coordinate on the use of federal brownfields grant funds for California

- Local Government Partnerships Develop formal working relationships between redevelopment agencies, other local governmental entities and DTSC and the Regional Boards
  - Assist local governments seeking environmental regulatory agency involvement in redevelopment projects (model/streamlined oversight reimbursement agreements)
  - Cross-train regulatory and redevelopment agency staff in each other's policies and functions.
  - o Identify areas of overlap or duplication between cleanup and redevelopment activities to look for efficiencies (e.g., CEQA compliance activities, public hearings)
  - o Participate in local governments' brownfields forums (e.g., California Redevelopment Association's Brownfields Committee)
  - Create a forum to facilitate communities sharing lessons-learned and the exchange of brownfields information
- **Brownfields Working Group** Establish a regular schedule for meetings of the Brownfields Working Group
  - o Discuss and update this Action Agenda and its implementation
  - Establish the focus and function of the Group
  - o Interact with Roundtable and partnership efforts
- Collaboration on Legislative Changes Work with brownfields stakeholders to identify statutory changes that would assist in addressing brownfield sites – Work together to seek their enactment.
- **Measurements of Success** Develop clear, tangible goals and objectives to measure the progress of brownfields efforts in California.
- Outreach Use web sites, newsletters, presentations in meetings and conferences, etc., to get the word out about California's brownfields programs and to solicit additional feedback on those efforts